

Riverside Conservation Area & Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area

Ten Year Area Management Plan
FY 2013-2022



Lisa B. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

1-27-14

Date

Riverside Conservation Area & Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Matthew E. Jones, Resource Forester

Mark McLain, Wildlife Management Biologist

Bob Gillespie, Natural History Biologist

Paul Cieslewicz, Fisheries Management Biologist

Mike Lancaster, Protection District Supervisor

Pat Holloway, Education Consultant

Southeast RCT Chair:

Tony J. Jacob
Signature

01/09/14
Date

Forestry Unit Chief:

Mike Hoffman
Signature

1-10-14
Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Riverside CA	4643	Purchased in 1946	2586	Iron, Wayne, Reynolds	Forestry	Forestry
Funk Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area	7513	Donated in 1975	180	Iron	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Purpose

The purpose of the Riverside Conservation Area (CA) and the Funk Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area is to provide the public with appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities, to protect natural features, to ensure healthy, sustainable forests, and to enhance wildlife habitat diversity.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of both areas is a healthy forest ecosystem that provides a variety of forest and woodland habitats, complimented by quality open lands and riparian areas that protect water quality.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area	Priority Area	Natural Area
Riverside CA	Mudlick-Pine Hills Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), McKenzie Creek Aquatic COA, St. Francois Knobs Priority Forest Landscape, Big Creek Priority Watershed, Audubon Missouri Important Bird Area	None
Funk Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area	St. Francois Knobs Priority Forest Landscape, Big Creek Priority Watershed, Audubon Missouri Important Bird Area	None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs	Other
Riverside CA	None	None	None	Two sinkholes in Reynolds County tract
Funk Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area	None	None	None	None

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area	Fire Tower	Parking Area	Pond Dam
Riverside CA	1 (Iron County tract)	1 (Iron County tract)	None
Funk Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area	None	None	1

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area	Deed Restrictions	Federal Interest	Easements	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Riverside CA	None	Yes ¹	Yes ^{2,3,4}	Yes ⁵	None observed	None observed	None observed
Funk Memorial Forest and Wildlife Area	None	Yes ¹	Yes ^{2,4}	None known	None observed	None observed	None observed

¹ Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and Wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

² Electrical service lines cross the Conservation Area in Section 20, T30N-R3E, and Section 4 T30N-R3E. There are no records showing formal easement for these service lines.

³ Easements were granted to Reynolds County for country roads in Sections 20 and 29, T30N-R3E

⁴ An easement was granted for an underground telephone line in Section 4, T30N-R3E, Iron County tract.

⁵ Yes, records kept with MDC Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the MDC Resource Policy Manual.

⁶ MDC received an easement from an adjoining landowner in Section 33, T30N-R3E, in order to access the southwest portion of the Wayne County tract.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Implementing the forest management prescriptions.
- 2) Improving the woodland/glade complex on Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area.

Management Objective 1: Manage for a healthy, sustainable forest with balanced size classes, and enhanced biodiversity of flora and fauna.

Strategy 1: Continue to implement forest management prescriptions that were developed from forest inventories conducted in 2004 (Reynolds County), 2006 (Wayne County), and 2007 (Iron County).

Strategy 2: Maintain forest inventory as dictated by the regional inventory schedule. Consult Land Type Associations guidelines during inventory.

Strategy 3: Increase pine component when possible on areas conducive to pine management.

Strategy 4: Monitor for insect/disease problems, tree regeneration levels, and wildfire danger. Modify management activities accordingly.

Management Objective 2: Protect and enhance riparian areas.

Strategy 1: Forest management in the riparian corridors will follow best management practices as outlined in the publication, Missouri Watershed Protection Practice, 2006.

Strategy 2: Evaluate all riparian corridors along the field edges to ensure adequate width of protective vegetation following the Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines, 2009.

Management Objective 3: Protect and enhance igneous glade/woodland complexes (see Figure 3: Stand Map).

Strategy 1: Reduce woody vegetation and increase abundance and diversity of herbaceous vegetation, using prescribed fire, mechanical and or chemical methods

Strategy 2: Monitor and evaluate results of management to determine fire frequency.

Management Objective 4: Maintain open land habitat to benefit wildlife.

Strategy 1: Continue managing open land for diverse vegetation types including a variety of cereal grain plots, legume and green browse plantings, early successional vegetation, and warm season grasses.

Strategy 2: Control exotics such as fescue and Japanese honeysuckle. Continue to monitor area for new invasive populations.

Strategy 3: Continue to utilize a permittee under the Agricultural Crop Permit program.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain water quality on McKenzie Creek.
- 2) Manage water quality around all sinkholes.

Management Objective 1: Maintain adequate riparian corridors on all waterways.

Strategy 1: Establish and maintain riparian corridors along McKenzie Creek, and all tributaries following the Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines, 2009.

Management Objective 2: Maintain adequate woody buffers on all sinkholes.

Strategy 1: Establish and/or maintain a minimum 50 feet woody buffer zone surrounding all sinkholes.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Increase public access to the area.

Management Objective 1: Increase vehicle access to the area.

Strategy 1: Study the possibility of developing additional parking lots on the area.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Ensure that boundary lines are easily identifiable.

Management Objective 1: Keep boundary lines in a condition that makes them easy to locate.

Strategy 1: Maintain signs and Re-paint the boundary lines every five years or sooner if the paint begins to fade.

Lands proposed for acquisition: None

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22
Terrestrial Resource Management										
Objective 1										
Strategy 2							X		X	X
Objective 2										
Strategy 2	X									
Objective 3										
Strategy 1			X			X			X	
Strategy 2			X			X			X	
Strategy 3			X			X			X	
Public Use Management										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1	X									
Administrative Consideration										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1		X					X			

APPENDICES

Riverside Conservation Area and Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area Background

Riverside Conservation Area and Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area is located in Iron, Reynolds, and Wayne counties, approximately fifteen miles north and west of Piedmont, Missouri (see Figure 2). Riverside CA was acquired in several purchases made in the 1940's using Commission funds, except for the 180 acre Funk Memorial Forest tract which was donated by Ernest Funk in 1975. In 2009, an 80 acre parcel was added to the Wayne County tract in a land trade. An additional 80 acres were added to the Wayne County tract in 2013. No Federal funds were used to purchase any of the land.

The landscape terrain in all three compartments of Riverside Conservation Area and Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area is hilly with narrow drainages, steep slopes, and highly varied aspects. Elevations range from a low of 530 feet above sea level to a high of 1,110 feet above sea level. The area is a major watershed for the Black River.

The forest type is typical of the Ozarks and is comprised primarily of oak, hickory and shortleaf pine on the uplands. The hollow bottoms exhibit an abundance of maple and black gum. The understory species are typically dogwood, sassafras and assorted shrubs.

There is one large woodland glade complex located on Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area and two small sinkholes located on the Reynolds County tract of Riverside CA.

There are approximately 28 acres of open fields on the area, most of which is seeded to green browse plots, (not including temporary log landings). Areas not in food plots are a mix of grass and small shrubs.

Most of the intermittent headwater tributaries on Riverside Conservation Area eventually drain into the Black River basin just above Clearwater Lake. The headwaters of McKenzie Creek are located on the Wayne County tract. Only 13 percent of the area drains into the St. Francois River basin. The steep wet weather stream channels on Riverside support few, if any fish communities. The high gradient streams do, however, generate enough energy to transport heavy sediment loads during periods of wet weather. The stream resource on the area is not significant in terms of providing angling opportunities.

Scattered small wildlife watering holes will not be managed as an angling resource. There is one larger pond less than two acres on Funk Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area that currently

supports a low density fish community. Building a road to this isolated pond to allow public access would be cost prohibitive, therefore the fish population of this pond will not be managed.

The area gets moderate use for hunting and fishing. Turkey hunters especially enjoy the area. Negative impact uses of the area include All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATV's), which are not allowed, and periodic vandalism of the fire tower on the Iron County tract.

There is county road access to all three tracts of Riverside. There is a small parking lot at the end of the gravel road on the Iron County tract at the fire tower. A county road dead-ends at the southeast corner of the Wayne County tract. A service road continues on from that point throughout the length of the area. MDC has acquired an easement from a neighboring landowner to access the southwest corner of the Wayne County tract. The parking lot on the Iron County tract is the only one on the entire area.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type Riverside CA	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	2576		99.6
Food Plots	10		0.4
Total	2586		100
Stream Frontage		0	

Land/Water Type Funk Memorial	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest and Woodland	96		53.0
Food Plots	18		10.0
Woodland/Glade	66		37.0
Total	180		100
Stream Frontage		0	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Riverside CA & Funk Memorial SF Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period October 1 - October 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Conservation Commission 2006. Missouri Watershed Protection Practice.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Road/Trail Map

Figure 3: Stand Map

Figure 4: Conservation Opportunity Map

Figure 1: Area Map

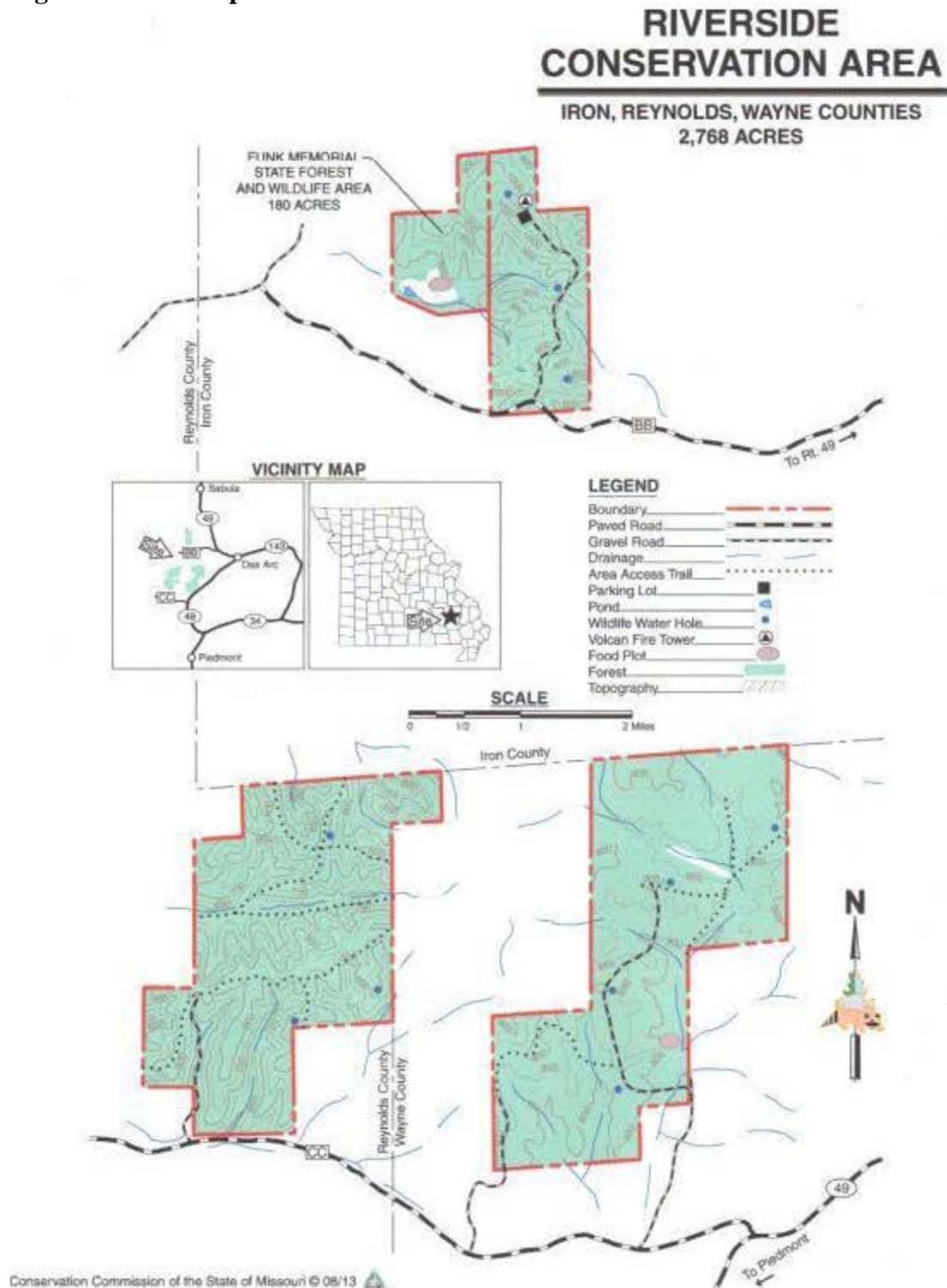


Figure 2: Road/Trail Map

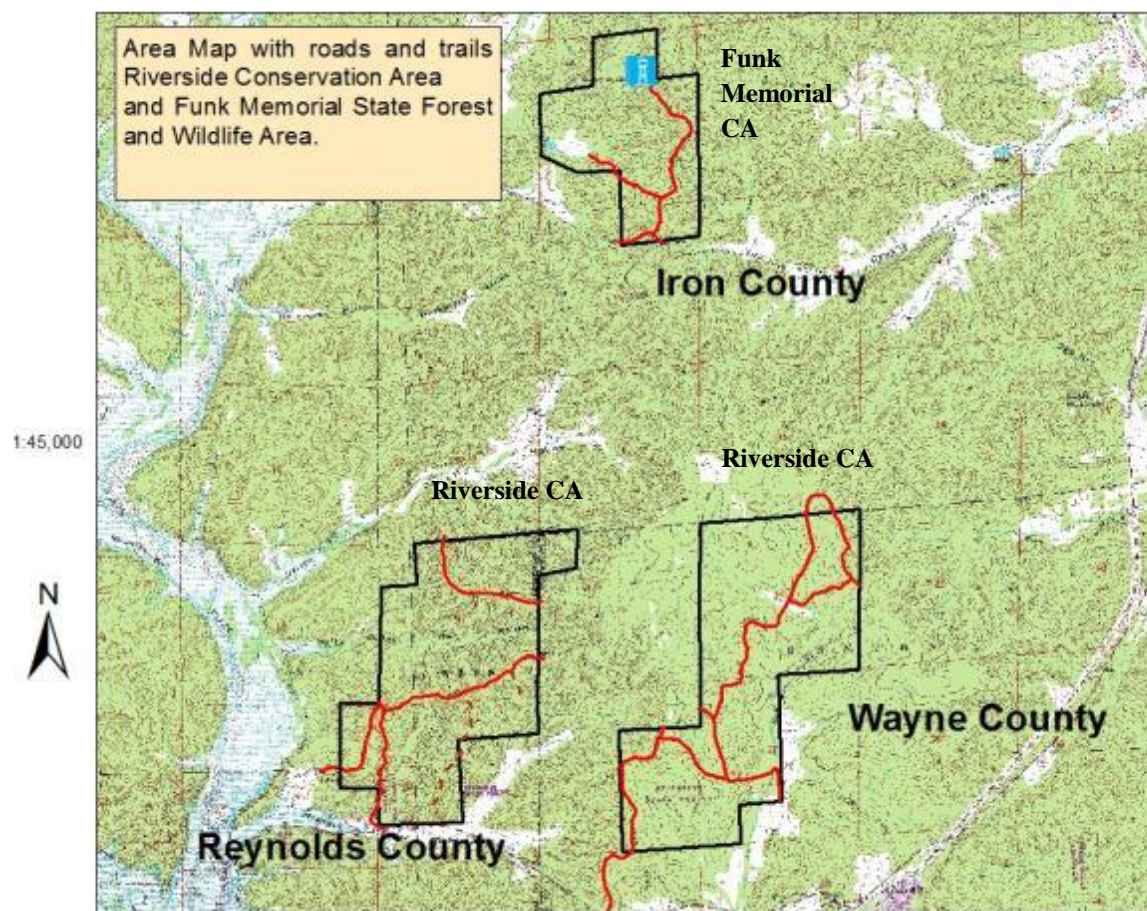


Figure 3: Stand Map

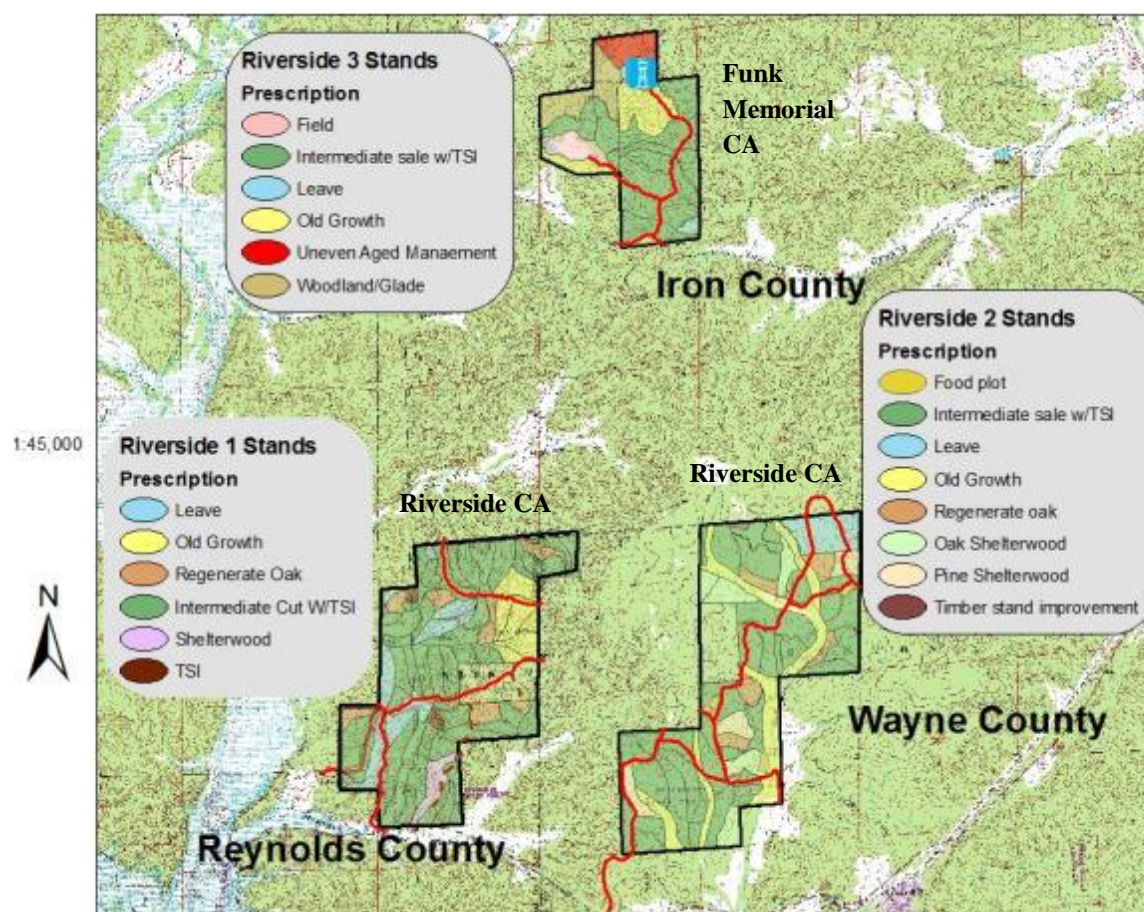


Figure 4: Conservation Opportunity Area Map

